Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 10072 031458Z

47

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-07 COME-00 SP-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

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P 031430Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0310 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL NAIROBI 10072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BDIS, CPRS, KE, US SUBJECT: SAUL/MILLER CASE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

REF: (A) NAIROBI 9765 (B) STATE 264566

- 1. KENYA GAZETTE DATED NOVEMBER 29, 1974, CONTAINS NOTICE NO. 3755 WHICH CANCELS CLAIMS OF GEORGE V. CRITICOS TO SAUL'S RUBY MINE. WESTERN PRESS HAS ALREADY DISCOVERED NOTICE, BUT EMBASSY CONFINING COMMENTARY TO STATEMENT THAT WE UNDERSTAND SAUL'S INTERESTS UNDER NEGOTIATION BY SAUL'S LAWYERS AND THAT WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO KNOW STATUS THESE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED TO WESTERN JOURNALIST THAT NOTICE MEANS THAT CRITICOS HAS INDEED LOST HIS RIGHTS TO CLAIM AND THAT NOTICE ALSO INTENDED TO GIVE GOVERNMENT OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS FAIR VALUE OF MINE.
- 2. SAUL'S LAWYER HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT ATTORNEY-GENERAL NJONJO (CONTRARY TO DECISION TO NATIONALIZE REPORTED REF A) HAS NOW DECIDED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON SETTLEMENT TO BEGIN WITHOUT ISSUANCE OF NATIONALIZATION DECREE EARLIER CONTEMPLATED. IF MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED, KENYAN GOVERNMENT COULD, ACCORDING TO JNONJO, THEN RESORT TO NATIONALIZATION AND EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 10072 031458Z

ACCORDANCE

WITH PROVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION. SAUL'S LAWYER, WHO STATES HE HAS AGREEMENT OF SAUL, IS NOW READY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE KENYAN OFFICIALS IN MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON BEHALF OF SAUL. INCIDENTALLY, HE SAID THERE IS NOT RPT NO CHANCE (PER REF B) THAT KENYANS WILL SEND NEGOTIATORS TO PARIS TO MEET WITH JOHN SAUL OR HIS FATHER.

3. I WOULD ONCE AGAIN URGE DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS EMBASSIES PARIS AND LONDON, TO DISCOURAGE SAUL AND HIS FATHER FROM UNDERMINING PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE THUS FAR IN THIS CASE BY THREATENING EXPOSES ON KENYATTA'S ALLEGED REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS OR THROUGH OTHER PRESSURE TACTICS. WHILE SAUL MAY NEVER BE FULLY SATISFIED WITH EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT (NEGOTIATION OF WHICH USG SHOULD NOT RPT NOT GET INVOLVED IN), I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE COME REMARKABLY FAR TO DATE IN PERSUADING KENYATTA TO SWALLOW HIS PRIDE AND AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. NEW SPATE OF CRITICAL PRESS ARTICLES OR SOME TYPE OF THREAT COULD WELL INFURIATE KENYATTA AND CAUSE HIM TO BACK OFF FROM CURRENT CONCILIATORY STANCE.

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